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**Interim Directory of
Legislative Committees
1995 - 1997**

Compiled by Staff From
Office of Research and Policy Analysis
and
Office of Legislative Information Technology

Published by



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Preface

For part-time citizen legislators, the interim between sessions is an opportunity for time to study and reflect on questions of state policy--an opportunity unavailable during the hectic days of the biennial session. The interim also offers the public an opportunity to work with its elected representatives to achieve better government.

This directory outlines legislative membership and staff support for the full array of interim activities in which the Legislature has a major or primary role. The directory is designed to support full participation by both legislators and the public in the interim work of the Legislature. To that end, information regarding the authority and purpose of each activity is included along with the names and addresses of members and staff.

The interim is a dynamic period. Information is as complete as possible when this directory is published; however, committees may organize following publication, memberships may change, or new committees may be created. All changes are noted in the monthly newsletter, The Interim, published by the Legislative Council and available to the public at a nominal charge. Active users are advised to note changes as they are reported.

Robert B. Person
Executive Director
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Legislative Branch Reorganization

Administrative consolidation of the Senate, House, Legislative Council, Office of the Legislative Auditor, Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Environmental Quality Council, and associated committees is the core of the Legislative Branch reorganization now being implemented. Under Senate Bill No. 398, Chapter 545, Laws of Montana, the consolidation has very much of a Legislative Branch flavor to it that recognizes the fact that the Branch does not have a single point of focus for its administrative or functional responsibilities. Instead, the Senate and the House comprise two separate entities that must work in tandem to perform the main duties of the Branch. Joint committees govern central staff services on behalf of the Senate and House. The consolidation respects the unique legislative arrangement by allowing an appropriate division between administrative services and programmatic work. This is reflected in the immediate consolidation of the financial administration of the Branch and the consolidation of the general administrative policy for staff, including a Branch pay plan and personnel administration. Opportunities are then created for further integration of operational arrangements to ensure that legislative staff service to the Legislature and the people is pursued with the guidance and support of the Legislature and the governing committees.

Under the reorganization plan, the current agencies are renamed as divisions: Legislative Services Division (Legislative Council and Environmental Quality Council); Legislative Audit Division (Office of the Legislative Auditor); and Legislative Fiscal Division (Office of Legislative Fiscal Analyst).

For the 1997 legislative session, the Office of Budget and Program Planning (OBPP) and the Legislative Fiscal Analyst will jointly prepare a single budget book that combines the Governor's budget and the Fiscal Analyst's budget analysis. A summary of the Governor's budget will be prepared for legislators and the general public. The Fiscal Analyst will no longer be required to review budget amendments sent to the Finance Committee by the OBPP.

The Environmental Quality Council staff is folded into the Legislative Services Division as the Legislative Environmental Policy Office with the establishment of a Legislative Environmental Analyst position. Senate Bill No. 398 provides that the LEA position is selected by the EQC, with the concurrence of the Legislative Council, and that the LEA position supervises the staff. In addition, the Water Policy Committee is combined with the EQC, with no name change for the EQC, and increases the EQC membership from 13 to 17.

Interim Study Subcommittees

Joint Interim Subcommittee on a State-Chartered Foreign Investment Depository

Study Resolution: Senate Joint Resolution No. 19, Laws of 1995

Senate Joint Resolution No. 19 requests an interim study of the legal and practical feasibility of establishing a state-chartered or state-owned financial institution to accept and invest foreign deposits. The study is to explore the incentives that such an establishment might offer potential foreign depositors and to determine the full range of financial, economic, social, and political benefits and costs to Montana citizens that would be associated with the establishment of the institution.

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Joint Interim Subcommittee on State Management Systems

Study Resolution: Senate Joint Resolution No. 23, Laws of 1995

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 requests a study of the following topics:

- the laws governing state personnel, finance, and asset management, with the goal of proposing revisions that provide clear, internally consistent, and simplified language based upon clear and consistent goals, while ensuring that the state and its agencies are able to maintain strict accountability for both state and nonstate assets entrusted to the state;
- opportunities for and advantages of installing an integrated system of asset management tools by employing an economical and effective transition from currently nonautomated or automated but not integrated legacy systems to a fully integrated, automated set of systems;
- an evaluation of what, if any, statutory changes and other legislative actions would be required to support such a transition. These systems initially include SBAS, PPP, and PAMS and include others as well.

The Joint Interim Subcommittee on State Management Systems is also to prepare a report that includes recommendations for the general revision of the laws governing state fiscal and personnel management and an estimated schedule by which a transition to fully integrated, automated asset management systems could be effected, along with an assessment of legislative actions required to support the schedule. The Subcommittee is to form an active working group of state management and information system professionals, including personnel from the Department of Administration, the Office of Budget and Program Planning, the Legislative Fiscal Division, and the Legislative Audit Division, as well as separate user groups, to meet separately and with the Subcommittee to identify problems and opportunities and to advise the Subcommittee regarding potential solutions and planning details.

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Joint Interim Subcommittee on Professional and Occupational Licensing

Study Resolution: Senate Joint Resolution No. 21, Laws of 1995

Senate Joint Resolution No. 21 requests a study of the organization and composition of the professional and occupational licensing boards of the Department of Commerce and requests recommendations on state policies regarding the professional and occupational licensing boards' authority to determine scope of practice issues and to resolve other issues concerning professions and occupations prior to legislative sessions. The Joint Interim Subcommittee on Professional and Occupational Licensing may request staff assistance and information from the Department of Commerce Professional and Occupational Licensing Bureau.

Membership:

Fulfillment of this study is contingent on the timely completion of the study authorized by Senate Joint Resolution No. 19. Appointments are expected to be made in March or April of 1996.

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Joint Interim Subcommittee on Veterans' Needs

Study Resolution: House Joint Resolution No. 19, Laws of 1995

House Joint Resolution No. 19 requests a continuation of the Joint Interim Subcommittee on Veterans' Needs that was established through a study resolution approved by the 1993 Legislature. The current interim study is to continue to focus on the needs of Montana veterans and specifically address the following issues: the feasibility of providing long-term nursing home care and home health care; a review of the extent of access, geographically and otherwise, of veterans to health care; and the continuum of veterans' services available throughout the state and a determination of the role and potential for additional federally funded veterans' programs in Montana. The Subcommittee may request assistance from the Veterans' Affairs Division of the Department of Military Affairs and from the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Membership:

Appointments are expected to be made in September 1995.

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**Legislative Committees and Divisions
Under the Legislative Council**

Legislative Council

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, MCA

The 12 members of the Legislative Council, 6 senators and 6 representatives, are chosen by the Committee on Committees in the Senate and by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Council is bipartisan, and the term of office is for two years. A new Council is selected before the 50th day of the regular session of each biennium.

The law charges the Legislative Council with administrative responsibilities relative to the Council staff. An important responsibility of the Council since 1975 has been supervision of the codification of Montana's statutes by a Code Commissioner assigned to the Council staff. The Montana Code Annotated (MCA), as recodified and published by the Code Commissioner, was adopted as *prima facie* the law of Montana by Chapter 1, Laws of 1979.

The one nonadministrative policy study function assigned to the Legislative Council provides a legislative "safety valve". In the event that a problem demanding legislative attention arises during the interim, the Council may assign study of the problem to an appropriate study committee. Chapter 1, Laws of 1987, allows the Council to assign such a study to either a joint interim subcommittee or an appropriate statutory committee.

Chapter 7, Laws of 1993, abolished the Capitol Building and Planning Committee and reassigned its functions to the Legislative Council. The Council is to consult with the Department of Administration on assignment of space in the Capitol and to advise the Montana Historical Society on the placement of artwork of a permanent nature within the public areas of the Capitol Building.

Senate Bill No. 398, Chapter 545, Laws of 1995, revised the composition of the Legislative Council by adding the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leaders from each house as *ex officio*, fully participating members. This raises the total Council membership from 8 to 12.

Under Senate Bill No. 398, the Council must also adopt personnel and administrative policies and assign responsibility for administration of those policies. The Legislative Finance Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee must concur in the policies prepared by the Legislative Council. The bill removes the Council's duty as the Long-Range Building Committee for the Capitol and eliminates the Montana Western Canadian Provinces Boundary Advisory Committee. The bill clarifies and expands Council responsibilities for interstate and international cooperation (5-11-301, MCA).

Under the bill, the Council takes on responsibility for NCSL membership, Canadian and sister state relations, and other related matters. The Council's responsibility is limited to what can be done with available appropriations, which is significant because, except for a partial dues payment to NCSL, there is no funding in the budget for any of the other responsibilities.

The bill assigns responsibility for adoption of the Branch computer system plan to the Council rather than to joint legislative administration committees.

The Legislative Council will serve as the study committee for Senate Joint Resolution No. 4: a study of legislative committee minutes. The purpose of the study is to examine the uses of and the needs for high-quality and timely minutes of legislative committees; to propose a definition of the components of committee minutes; and to examine and assess the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of alternative means of producing committee minutes, including the application of available technology. Legislative Council staff will conduct the study with the assistance of the State Librarian, the State Law Librarian, the State Archivist, current and former Secretaries of the Senate and Chief Clerks of the House, and persons knowledgeable about available technology pertinent to the study.

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The Council Staff: The Legislative Services Division

The staff of the Legislative Council acts as an independent, nonpolitical, impartial staff agency for the Legislature, performing those duties and functions assigned by law or as directed or requested by members and committees of the Legislature. The Council staff also provides information to the public on legislative matters.

The Legislative Services Division staff is divided into five functional units or offices: the Office of Legislative Information Technology, the Office of Research and Policy Analysis, the Legal Services Office, the Environmental Policy Office, and the Office of Management Services. Two additional units are activated during a legislative session: the Legislative Information Office and Legislative Printing and Distribution.

The Office of Legislative Information Technology is responsible for clerical preparation of bills. This group is also responsible for the compilation, publication, and distribution of the following: bill drafting record index, internal reference report, Rules of the Montana Legislature, code sections affected list, Daily Bill Status, Combined Final Status, daily and final Journals of House and Senate, Session Law, and text and annotations of the Montana Code Annotated. Annotations, including case notes to federal and state court decisions and other materials useful to MCA users, are published separately from the section text in booklet format that may be easily updated.

The Office of Research and Policy Analysis and the Legal Services Office have many of the same responsibilities. Both groups perform general and specialized research and reference and information functions. Members of both units may staff legislative committees during the session and throughout the interim, draft legislation, prepare

legislative and staff reports, and provide information on the legislative process to the public. During the interim, the Legal Services Office is primarily responsible for updating the Montana Code Annotated. The Office of Research and Policy Analysis has primary responsibility for staffing interim committees and providing reference services. This Office maintains a reference library containing items of special interest to legislators and legislative staff. The Reference Librarian maintains a liaison with other libraries to help make information available as quickly as possible.

The indexers in the Legal Services Office provide an index to the Montana Code Annotated, the subject index for all bills introduced during a legislative session, and the Journal Index, Legislative Review Index, Session Law Index, Bill Drafting Manual Index, Combined Final Status Index, Legal Research Memorandum Index, and Legislative Rules Index. The indexes are updated during and after each legislative session.

The Code Commissioner supervises the continuing codification, indexing, rearranging, and general updating of the text and annotations of the Montana Code Annotated.

See page 21 for a description of the Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

The Office of Management Services maintains all bookkeeping records; processes all legislative claims and payrolls; requisitions all printing, supplies, and equipment; and serves the House and Senate during a session.

During a legislative session, the Legislative Information Office is in operation. The Office operates six days a week and provides legislative information to the public via toll-free telephone lines and to the many Capitol visitors. The Office assists in preparation of the Legislative Telephone Directory. The Office also distributes the Legislative Rules, daily committee hearing calendars, information available through the computerized information system, daily House and Senate second and third reading agendas, seating charts, and other relevant materials. The toll-free number during sessions is 1-800-237-5079.

Legislative Printing and Distribution, which is activated during a legislative session, has two separate functions. The distribution center distributes bills, amendments, resolutions, indexes, daily status, rules, and journals to legislators, state agencies, lobbyists, and other subscribers to the legislative proceedings. Daily mailings of the proceedings are made to the 56 County Clerk and Records and the 12 state libraries. The print shop staff orders all printing, sets priorities on the printing, and delivers printed proceedings to the House and Senate bill distribution offices.

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Legislative Audit Committee

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 13, MCA

The Legislative Audit Committee appoints a Legislative Auditor whose staff audits the financial affairs of each state agency. The Legislative Audit Division also conducts performance audits to test the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies in administering governmental programs and conducts electronic data processing audits to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of the state's computer resources.

The Legislative Branch reorganization bill, Senate Bill No. 398, Chapter 545, Laws of 1995, increased the Legislative Audit Committee from 8 to 12 members.

Chapter 20, Special Laws of November 1993, created a hotline to the Legislative Audit Division for reporting information on fraud, waste, and abuse in state government. The hotline number is 1-800-222-4446 outside Helena and 444-4446 from a Helena location.

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Environmental Quality Council

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 16, MCA

In the legislative reorganization under Senate Bill No. 398, Chapter 545, Laws of 1995, the Environmental Quality Council (EQC) was consolidated under the management of the Legislative Services Division. The EQC appoints a Legislative Environmental Analyst who heads the Legislative Environmental Policy Office (LEPO), a principal subdivision under the Legislative Services Division. The LEPO staff continue as before reorganization to review and appraise state programs and activities related to the environment to ensure compliance with the Montana Environmental Policy Act (Title 75, chapter 1, MCA). The legislative reorganization legislation increased the membership of EQC to six House members and six Senate members. Legislative leadership also appoints four public members to the EQC. A representative of the Governor's Office serves as a nonvoting member.

The legislative reorganization legislation eliminated the Water Policy Committee and directed the EQC to perform the duties of that committee as provided in 85-2-105, MCA. The duties include: advising the Legislature on the adequacy of the state's water policy and of developments that affect Montana's water resources; overseeing policies and activities of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and other state agencies as they affect the water resources of the state; and communicating with the public on matters of water policy.

Created by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), the EQC has statutory responsibilities for legislative oversight of the administration of MEPA by state agencies. During the 1995-97 interim, the EQC will add to its ongoing training and assessment services by assisting state agencies in integrating regulatory impact analysis into the MEPA process. The 1995 Legislature also requested that the EQC study the compliance and enforcement programs of the state's natural resource and environmental programs (House Joint Resolution No. 10) and perform legislative oversight of a study on the elimination of joint and several liability and the related funding necessary to clean up state CECRA sites (Senate Bill No. 382, Chapter 584, Laws of 1995). The EQC will also conduct an internal review of environmental risk assessment and prioritization methodologies and attend to a number of assorted oversight functions.

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Maureen Theisen, Research Assistant
Sallie Melcher, Secretary

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Legislative Finance Committee

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 12, MCA

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) employs a Legislative Fiscal Analyst and staff whose duties are to provide information bearing upon the financial matters of state government, assist in estimating revenue from state taxes, analyze the executive budget, and generally assist the Legislature in all matters of compiling and analyzing financial information.

Chapter 593, Laws of 1993, requires the LFC to review each interim each dedicated revenue provision and each statutory appropriation.

Membership:

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Terry W. Johnson, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Taryn Purdy, Principal Fiscal Analyst
Roger Lloyd, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Terri Perrigo, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Lisa Smith, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Lois Steinbeck, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Sandy Whitney, Senior Fiscal Analyst
Robert "Skip" Culver, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Mark Lee, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Nan LeFebvre, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Mary Longmaid, Associate Fiscal Analyst
James Standaert, Associate Fiscal Analyst
Lisa Mader, Office Manager
Shauna Ryan, Secretary

Legislative Finance Division
444-2986 FAX 444-3036

Administrative Code Committee

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 14, MCA

The Administrative Code Committee was established in 1975 as a permanent committee to review all proposed rules, amendments, and rule repeals filed with the Secretary of State under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act (Title 2, chapter 4, MCA). The powers of the Committee are set forth in Title 2, chapter 4, part 4, MCA.

Membership:

SEN. LARRY BAER (R)
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HOME 755-0467

SEN. GARY FORRESTER (D)
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SEN. DON HARGROVE (R)
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REP. MATT DENNY (R)
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REP. MARGE FISHER (R)
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WORK: 862-1233

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Legislative Services Division
444-3064

Revenue Oversight Committee

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 18, MCA

The Revenue Oversight Committee was created in 1979 to review proposed rules of the Department of Revenue and to exercise legislative oversight of that Department. The Committee also investigates and reports on any other matters concerning taxation.

Chapter 608, Laws of 1989, required the Revenue Oversight Committee to estimate and report to the Legislature the amount of revenue projected to be available for appropriation. The Committee must introduce a house joint resolution setting forth the Committee's revenue estimate in each regular session in which a revenue bill is under consideration.

Chapter 40, Laws of 1993, abolished the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee of the Revenue Oversight Committee and assigned the Committee the duties of reviewing and reporting on programs financed by coal severance tax funds and on matters related to coal taxation.

Membership:

SEN. DELWYN GAGE (R)
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SEN. B.F. "CHRIS" CHRISTIAENS (D)
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VICE CHAIR
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
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Staff:

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Lee Heiman, Attorney

Legislative Services Division
444-3064

Committee on Indian Affairs

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 19, MCA

The 1989 Legislature authorized a statutory Committee on Indian Affairs to continue the work of six previous interim legislative committees. Chapter 636, Laws of 1993, increased the committee membership to eight. During the past interim, the Committee attended to a number of statutory duties, including: encouraging participation of Indian people in Committee meetings; acting as a liaison between Indian people and the Legislature; encouraging tribal-state and tribal-local government cooperation; and holding hearings to promote better understanding between the tribes and public agencies.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 11, Laws of 1995, requests that the Committee on Indian Affairs study and report to the 55th Legislature on the following issues: compliance with the commitment in Article X, section 1, subsection (2), of the Montana Constitution to preserve the cultural integrity of American Indians within the goals of public education; the role of American Indians in higher education; and the level of knowledge of the general public regarding American Indian issues.

Membership:

SEN. CASEY EMERSON (R)
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REP. GEORGE HEAVY RUNNER (D)
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Staff:

Connie Erickson, Legislative Research Analyst
Eddy McClure, Attorney

Legislative Services Division
444-3064

**Statutory Committees Receiving
Legislative Services Division
Staff Assistance**

Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 22, part 1, MCA

For the second interim in succession, the 1993-94 Joint Oversight Committee on Children and Families sponsored legislation (House Bill No. 578 Chapter 414, Laws of 1995) to reauthorize a statutory legislative committee with the following assignments: to examine public and private programs, services, and planning for children and families for the purpose of identifying duplications, inefficiencies, and any unmet needs within those programs, services, and plans; to review all funds available to state and local jurisdictions for programs and services and to consider feasible methods of refinancing of those resources to maximize overall funding for existing and new programs; to monitor legislation that mandates interagency coordination of programs and services for children and families; to study further coordination and collaboration among public and private human service providers at all levels of government in Montana; and to monitor any pilot programs designed to provide early identification of and support for families that may be at risk of child abuse and neglect and at risk of out-of-home placement of their children. New projects for this interim include issues surrounding teen parents, welfare reform, adult protective services, and agency reorganization.

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REP. LIZ SMITH (R)
311 FREEZE OUT LANE
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Doug Sternberg, Legal Researcher

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Committee on Public Employee Retirement Systems

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 21, MCA and Chapter 552, Laws of 1995

For the third interim in succession, the Legislature has approved an interim committee to study public employee retirement systems. Chapter 549, Laws of 1993, created a statutory committee to review and evaluate all legislative proposals affecting the state's 12 public employee retirement systems. Other Committee duties included reviewing the fiscal status of the retirement systems and developing sound retirement policies for recommendation to the Legislature. Chapter 450, Laws of 1993, requested that the Committee on Public Employee Retirement Systems study equitable, reasonable, and soundly funded guaranteed annual postretirement benefit adjustments for members of the statewide public employee retirement systems.

For the 1995-97 interim, the Committee on Public Employee Retirement Systems has an appropriation of up to \$13,800 from the pension trust funds, and the Legislative Services Division is authorized to accept for Committee use any contributions of up to \$10,000.

Membership:

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Juvenile Justice and Juvenile Mental Health Study Commission

Statutory Citation: Chapter 436, Laws of 1995

At the request of the Montana Board of Crime Control, the 1995 Legislature enacted Chapter 436, Laws of 1995, authorizing a commission to engage in a comprehensive review and assessment of the Montana juvenile justice system and juvenile mental health system. The study must include: a comprehensive review of past and present programs used to successfully rehabilitate youth and reduce juvenile crime; a review of methods and programs in other states and nations that have been documented as a success in treating and rehabilitating youth; the development of a juvenile justice and mental health treatment continuum that provides for community protection, youth accountability, youth competency, meaningful restitution, and successful reintegration of youth into the community; a definition and delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Public Health and Human Services and other state and local government agencies working with youth; a definition and delineation of the roles and responsibilities of the juvenile justice system and the youth mental health services delivery systems; and a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of each state youth correctional facility and of each detention facility operated by the state, including the feasibility of privatizing each facility.

The Commission is composed of two members of the House of Representatives, two members of the Senate, and the following members appointed by the Governor: a citizen representing the public at large; a Youth Court Judge; a Justice of the Peace; a member of the Youth Justice Advisory Council; a parent or guardian of a youth being treated or supervised; a juvenile probation officer; a County Attorney; a victim of a violent crime committed by a youth; a member of a private agency that provides treatment services to youth; a young adult who was formerly adjudicated to be a juvenile delinquent or youth in need of supervision; and one employee each from the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the Board of Crime Control, and the Department of Corrections, who shall serve as nonvoting members. The Legislative Services Division shall supply staff support to the commission. The Commission has received a subgrant of \$20,000 of federal funds from the Board of Crime Control for the Youth Justice Council.

Legislative Members:

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THE HONORABLE JOHN LARSON
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CANDY WIMMER
BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Other Interim Committees

Legislative Consumer Committee

Statutory Citation: Article XIII, section 2, Montana Constitution; Title 5, chapter 15, MCA

The Legislative Consumer Committee appoints the Consumer Counsel, required by the Montana Constitution, who represents Montana's public utility and transportation consumers before the Public Service Commission, state and federal courts, and administrative agencies in matters concerning companies regulated by the Public Service Commission.

Membership:

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REP. JOE QUILICI (D)
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Frank E. Buckley, Utility Analyst
John B. Bushnell, Utility Economist
Mary Wright, Attorney
Celia R. Farlan, Secretary

Consumer Counsel
444-2771 FAX 444-2760

Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget

Statutory Citation: Chapter 387, Laws of 1993

For the fifth consecutive session, the Legislature has authorized an interim study committee on postsecondary education policy and budget issues. The Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget also serves as liaison between both the Legislative and Executive Branches and the Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education.

The Committee membership consists of eight legislative members, a student member and an Executive Branch representative appointed by the Governor, and two members of the Board of Regents of Higher Education appointed by the Regents. The staff of the Legislative Fiscal Division assists the Committee, with the aid of an appropriation for \$14,800 for the biennium.

Legislative Membership:

SEN. GREG JERGESON (D)
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CHINOOK MT 59523-1568
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WORK: 265-3595

REP. DON HOLLAND (R)
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SEN. ARNIE MOHL (R)
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REP. STEVE VICK (R)
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PAUL BOYLAN
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Governor's Representative:

PAT HAFEEY
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Student Representative:

CHADO HAZELBAKER
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Staff:

Sandy Whitney, Senior Fiscal Analyst

Legislative Finance Division
444-2986

Selected Government Committees to Which Legislators Are Appointed

Legislative Oversight Committee on Montana-ARCO Litigation

Statutory Citation: Chapter 354, Laws of 1993

A legislative oversight committee on the progress of the Montana-ARCO litigation and negotiations is required to meet quarterly for briefing and to consider use of any damages received by the state as a result of the litigation.

Legislative Membership:

SEN. LORENTS GROSFIELD (R)
HC 87, BOX 2145
BIG TIMBER MT 59011-9703
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REP. MIKE KADAS (D)
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SEN. MIKE HALLIGAN (D)
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REP. ROGER SOMERVILLE (R)
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Staff:

Rob Collins, Natural Resource Damage Litigation Program

Department of Justice
444-0226

Legislative Consulting Panel to the Microbusiness Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 17-6-411, MCA

Four legislators are chosen by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Committees to work with the Microbusiness Advisory Council, a 13-member group appointed by the Governor to advise the Department of Commerce regarding the creation, operation, and maintenance of the microbusiness development and finance program. The Governor's appointments to the Advisory Council are forthcoming.

Legislative Membership:

SEN. RIC HOLDEN (R)
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REP. JOHN C. BOHLINGER (R)
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Staff:

Nancy Guccione

Department of Commerce
444-4187

Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-212, MCA

Two legislative members selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two selected by the President of the Senate are assigned to the Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission, a body that adjudicates existing water rights under Montana water use statutes and negotiates water rights with the federal government and the Indian tribes.

Legislative Membership:

SEN. CHUCK SWYSGOOD (R)
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REP. ROBERT R. STORY, JR. (R)
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Citizen Membership:

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Susan Cottingham

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
444-6716

Gaming Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Section 2-15-2021, MCA

The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate Committee on Committees each select a legislative member to this nine-member group that advises the Department of Justice on possible changes in the state's gambling laws and rules and on all aspects of gambling-related matters.

Legislative Membership:

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444-1971

Montana Tax Policy Task Force

Statutory Citation: Chapter 570, Laws of 1995

Senate Bill No. 417, Chapter 570, Laws of 1995, established a Montana Tax Policy Task Force to review local government funding, to examine all aspects of taxation in Montana, and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on short-term and long-term tax policy strategies. Four members of the House of Representatives and four members of the Senate will serve on the Task Force along with eight members, appointed by the Governor, who are representative of taxpayer groups, business and industry, labor organizations, local government, and consumers of governmental services. The Task Force is allocated to the Department of Revenue and is appropriated \$15,000 for the interim.

Legislative Membership:

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444-2460

Legislative Branch Computer System Planning Council

Statutory Citation: Sections 5-11-402 through 5-11-405, MCA

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Health Care Advisory Council

Statutory Citation: Title 50, chapter 4, MCA

House Bill No. 511, Chapter 378, Laws of 1995, established the Health Care Advisory Council to continue the public-private partnership approach to health care reform and to study solutions to the health care crisis and methods of cost reduction in health care services and health care delivery systems. Two members of the House of Representatives and two members of the Senate will serve on the Council along with five members, appointed by the Governor, who represent the health care planning

regions. The Department of Public Health and Human Services shall provide staff assistance.

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431-2770

Montana Public Health Improvement Task Force

Statutory Citation: Title 50, chapter 1, part 4, MCA

The Montana Public Health Improvement Act was enacted in 1995 to strengthen the ability to prevent health problems and to focus resources on locally determined threats to public health. The Legislature charged the Montana Public Health Improvement Task Force with preparing a public health improvement plan and delivering it to the Governor and the Legislature on or before September 30, 1996. Appointments to the Task Force are forthcoming.

Telecommunications Task Force

Statutory Citation: Chapter 508, Laws of 1995

House Bill No. 460, Chapter 508, Laws of 1995, established a Blue Ribbon Telecommunications Task Force to examine Montana's telecommunications infrastructure and to make recommendations to the Governor and the 55th Legislature to ensure the implementation of policies, practices, and statutes regarding access to advanced telecommunications services. The Task Force is assigned to the Department of Administration and is appropriated \$20,000 from the state general fund and up to \$175,000 in gifts and grants. Two members of the House of Representatives and 2 members of the Senate will serve on the Task Force along with 11 members, appointed by the Governor, who are representative of telecommunications users and providers in Montana.

Legislative Membership:

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Commission on Sentencing

Statutory Citation: Sections 46-18-130 through 46-18-132, MCA

During the 1995-97 interim, a Commission on Sentencing will study sentencing practices and provide proposed sentencing guidelines to the 55th Legislature. Two members of the House of Representatives and 2 members of the Senate will serve on the Commission along with 12 other persons appointed by the Governor to represent criminal justice interests.

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Future Fisheries Review Panel

Statutory Citation: Section 87-1-273, MCA

At part of House Bill No. 349, the 1995 Legislature created a Future Fisheries Review Panel to assist the Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks in determining what projects may be eligible for inclusion in the future fisheries improvement program. One member of the House of Representatives and 1 member of the Senate will serve on the Review Panel along with 10 members, appointed by the Governor, who are public members or who represent agricultural and recreational interests. The Governor's appointments to the Review Panel are forthcoming.

Legislative Membership:

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Interstate Cooperation Organizations

The Council of State Governments (CSG)

Statutory Citation: Title 5, chapter 11, part 3, MCA

The Legislative Services Division is designated by 5-11-301, MCA, as the Montana Commission on Interstate and International Cooperation and, as such, as a member of the Council of State Governments (CSG), an organization of all the states and territories of the United States. The primary mission of CSG is to promote and strengthen state government in the federal system by providing staff services to organizations of state officials. Montana is a member of the Western Legislative Conference of CSG, representing the governing bodies of 13 western states. The purpose of the Conference is to foster and encourage intergovernmental cooperation in the West through joint consideration of common problems. The basic work of the Conference is accomplished through study committees.

The Legislative Council appoints legislators as delegates and alternates to CSG committees. The members serve two-year terms. The 1995 Legislature followed the actions of the 1991 and 1993 Legislatures and did not appropriate funding to participate in this organization in the next biennium.

The Western Office staffs the Western Legislative Conference of CSG and several other affiliate organizations. State legislative staff members also assist in the work of the Western Legislative Conference on a selective, time-limited basis.

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National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Statutory Citation: None

The purpose of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is to improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures, to ensure the states a strong voice in federal decisionmaking, and to foster interstate communication and cooperation.

As the designated Commission on Interstate and International Cooperation, the Legislative Council has traditionally appointed the Montana members of the NCSL committees. The Legislative Council appoints legislators as delegates and alternates to NCSL committees. The members serve two-year terms.

Staff:

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(202) 624-5400

Montana Committee Membership 1995-97

National Conference of State Legislatures

Committees of the State-Federal Assembly

The State-Federal Assembly was formed to: determine policies to guide lobby efforts and to encourage state legislative action before Congress; provide legislators to testify before Congress; provide legislators to serve on advisory panels; and provide legislators to meet with White House and Executive Branch officials. Policy positions are developed through review and investigation by each committee.

Montana currently has no members on any committee except Energy.

Agriculture and Forestry

This committee has jurisdiction over agricultural issues, such as biotechnology, sustainable agriculture, food safety and inspection, rural development, and pesticide regulation. It monitors alternative fuels research and state extension services. The committee also tracks the five-year reauthorization of the farm bill and oversees forestry issues, such as problems associated with old-growth forests and management of the national forests.

Commerce, Labor, and Regulation

This committee has jurisdiction over issues of economic regulation, such as financial institutions, insurance companies, and antitrust laws. Issues of labor-management relations, employment discrimination, and family/medical leave policies are recent high priorities. Housing, community development, enterprise zones, and technology development issues are also concerns.

Education and Job Training

This committee has jurisdiction for all federal education programs, including those administered by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, Agriculture, and Commerce and the National Science Foundation.

Environment

This committee has jurisdiction over issues of air and environmental quality; solid, hazardous, and radioactive waste; and water. Among key topics are Superfund site cleanup and interstate disposal of solid waste.

Energy

This committee focuses on federal-state policies in the following areas: energy conservation, exploration, and taxation; federal budget and block grants; geothermal, hydroelectric, shale, solar, and renewable energy issues; mining; natural gas; nuclear power and waste; settlement money; and utility issues. The committee addresses national energy policy and energy independence issues.

Montana Member:

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Health

This committee concerns itself with such health topics as Medicare, Medicaid, long-term care, mental health, substance abuse, minority health, disabilities, AIDS, and health care reform.

Human Services

This committee's issues divide into three major categories: food and nutrition; income security and social services; and immigration policies.

Assembly on the Legislature

The Assembly on the Legislature provides a forum for consideration of issues internal to state legislatures and state government. Members of the committees are automatically members of the Assembly. Both legislators and legislative staff are eligible for membership on the Assembly's committees. The Assembly and its committees meet approximately three times each year, including once at the NCSL annual meeting.

Commerce and Economic Development

This committee studies a wide range of state policies and programs that seek to promote economic development, including university-business partnerships, technology transfers, workforce training, community development, and environmental issues related to economic development.

350 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$2.50 per copy, for a total cost of \$875.00, which includes \$875.00 for printing and \$.00 for distribution.